Investments Ltd. 64.532 equity shares of Rs. 100/- each of M/s. National Peroxide Ltd. for Rs. 25.39 lakhs as per the annual accounts of the said companies for the year ended 1983-84.

(b) No, Sir. The investment of M/s. Bombay Dyeing & Mfg. Co. Ltd. in the shares of M/s. National Peroxide Ltd. in 1954 was Rs. 15 lakhs.

(c) M/s. National Peroxide Ltd. made a public issue of 75,000 equity shares of Rs. 100/- each at a premium of Rs. 220/- per share in March 1985.

(d) Since the shares of M/s. National Peroxide Ltd. were not being quoted on the Stock Exchange at the relevant time, it is not possible to furnish the required information.

(e) to (g) Do not arise in view of (d) above.

Cases of burning due to fireworks

2593. SHRI RAM AWADESH SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a research in Biomedical Engineering in I.I.T. Delhi has shown that thousands of persons get burnt every year due to fireworks especially 'anars' as reported in India Today of 30th October, 1986; if so, the action taken by Government in this regard;

(b) the accidents of burns reported in the year 1986 in Delhi; and

(c) whether Government propose to use AIR/TV and other media to educate the people in this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) A study was carried out by Shri Dinesh Mohan, Ph.D. and 3 others of the patients reporting to two Hospitals i.e. the Safdarjung Hospital and Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan Hospital in Delhi over a two day period around Diwali in 1983 to determine the epidemiology of fireworks burns sustained by the patients and the same was published by the Centre for Bio-medical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi in September, 1984.

A house to house survey was also carried out in two localities to determine the incidence of fire work burns. The study revealed that out of 131 cases of fire work burns/injuries, 85 cases related to burns while handling conical anars. On the basis of these and other findings, the authors of the study concluded that hundreds of thousands of persons suffer burns and injuries due to fireworks in a few days around Diwali in India and thousands get disabled.

According to the information available with Government people get injured while firing conical anars mainly because of non-observance of the instructions relating to the firing according to which these should be fired after placing them on the ground and not while holding these in the hands. As per the statutory requirement every packet of conical anar has to contain a warning label regarding safe method of display of anars.

Government do not centrally maintain statistics regarding the accidents of burns caused only due to fireworks in Diwali.

Instructions have been issued to the various manufacturers to print the instructions for safe use of fireworks on the packages themselves. In addition, audio-visual instructions regarding the use of fireworks are also given to the public from time to time through newspaper, Doordarshan etc. The quality of the fire works manufactured by various units is also periodically tested by the Officers of the Department of Explosives.